

has it?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, I thought it was coming up later and so I didn't have a copy, but it is in the Journal if you look on page 1370 of the Journal.

SENATOR BROMM: 1370.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Just in the very briefest of terms could you describe for me practically what your amendment does then?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The amendment...in the current law, as you know, to get an adoption you need the consent of the parent, okay, we're dealing with a step-parent adoption case. You need the consent of the natural mother. You'll need the consent of the father, but if he's not present and in most cases that abandonment occurs, and that's the reason you're doing the step-parent adoption, you also need to go and get the consent of the district court. The issue becomes, in the Nebraska statute it says you need consent of the Nebraska district court if there is a divorce proceeding in front of it or a juvenile proceeding dealing with the custody of the child. Well in my situation and the one Senator Matzke is talking about, the divorce occurs in the State of Louisiana, but nobody has any significant contacts with Louisiana anymore. They've all left. And so which...you're faced with two situations. Do I not get consent of the district court because by the plain reading of the statute I don't need it because there was no divorce in Nebraska, or do I try to go to Louisiana where there is no contacts anymore and gain their consent? And procedurally, obviously that's very difficult. What the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act does, it says that the home state is where the child has been for the last six months, the significant contacts, that's the statute you're looking at now. What my amendment does is say that if the child comes under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act and this state is the home state, that you then can get consent from the district court here. You don't have to go down to Louisiana and the whole purpose, as you know, for that is that district courts have a continuing jurisdiction over the custody of children and there's really no standards ever on their consents. As you know, you can't fight the abandonment in the district court, but the district court may have had some proceedings that would be "instructful" for